

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman

Tsunetaro Miyakoda

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Editors:

Chuzo Yamada

Dorothy Burt

Umeko Kagawa

CABLE CODE: JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS: CRISTIAN CENTER, 2,4-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

All over the world on the first Friday in Lent, Christian women gather to worship and pray together. In 1964 this World Day of Prayer is on February 14. In Japan there will be two services at the Aoyama Gakuin chapel at 2 and 6 p.m. Both services will be conducted bilingually in Japanese and English. It is sponsored by the Women's Committee of the National Christian Council of Japan. A part of the offering for the day will go toward the food program in Korea and the other part will go toward the expenses connected with the Southeast Asia Christian Women's Conference to be held in Japan possibly in the Spring.

The wife of the first secretary of Ghana will have a part in a service. The speaker at the 2 o'clock service is Rev. Mari Imai of the YWCA and at the 6 o'clock service is Miss Gertrud E. Kuecklich, an outstanding Christian leader in Japan.

MISSIONARY STARATEGY

The strategy committee of the Council of Cooperation of the United Church of Christ in Japan, the Kyodan, undertook a study in order to determine how missionaries might be better used in the diverse fields of evangelism, education, and social work. A meeting for this purpose was held in the Christian Center recently to consider the work of about 400 missionaries working within the Kyodan. The major problems under discussion were drawn from answers to a questionnaire returned by the missionaries themselves.

Ten major areas were discussed.

1) The Theological Significance of the Role of the Missionary

The church must not only be concerned with the general mission of the church; but particularly from the standpoint of ecumenical consciousness, it must be concerned with the theological significance of the role of the missionary.

If we think of the missionary as a symbol of the ecumenical church, questions must be asked about the image of the missionary. This requires further study.

2) Material for use in Recruiting of Missionaries

The appropriate people in Japan should analyze the work expected of each missionary and make a clear job analysis to be sent to the Mission Boards.

3) Concerning New Types of Work

Although it is necessary to fix the content and scope of the missionary's work, new areas of work are opening to the missionary and his assignment should not be static. As the church faces the changing world situation flexibility is necessary. The church must consider ways to develop new leadership among missionaries.

4) Concerning Orientation

The content of missionary work, assignment procedures, and methods of carrying out one's mission must be dealt with. Before and after assignment the missionary needs orientation. Also the receiving bodies - church (Kyodan, Kyoku) schools, social work institutions, - need preparation for effective use of the missionary.

5) Work Evaluation and Reassignment

It is desirable to have a better system for the evaluation of the work of missionaries. Also it is desirable that reassignment be made before the missionary leaves for furlough.

6) Who Is Responsible for Missionaries?

It is necessary to make clear just who is responsible for the missionary and to whom the missionary is responsible; whether the CoC, Kyodan, Kyoku, School, or Social Work Institution. The areas of responsibility must be clarified.

We must also decide who is responsible for the housing of the missionary.

7) Pastoral Concern for the Missionary and His Family

At present the pastoral care of the missionary and his family is inadequate. An appropriate system is necessary to take care of this need and a trained specialist in this field might be appointed.

8) The Problem of Communication.

There is inadequate communication between missionaries and Japanese pastors. An effort must be made to improve this situation.

9) Educational Missionaries and Evangelism.

In order to make it possible for the educational missionary to participate in

evangelism, the school and Kyoku must cooperate more effectively.

10) The missionary and the Financial Problem

Policies should allow for missionaries to participate in the raising of funds. The salaries of educational missionaries should be recognized as a part of the financial support that schools receive from mission boards.

LUTHERAN CONSULTATION

The new Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church met with representatives of its supporting Boards at a "Consultation on Evangelism in Japan". The meeting was held January 27 - 30, at the Japan Christian Academy House in Oiso.

Basically three problems were discussed.

- (1) What is the relationship of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church to supporting bodies in other countries?
- (2) What will be the structure of the church now that a union has been realized? How will the separate districts (formerly supported by one mission body) operate within the New Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church.
- (3) How can the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church realize full self support in the near future?

It was decided that decisions on work will be made by the merged church, according to commonly agreed upon procedures. It was felt that one channel should be recognized for the support of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church. However for the time being the Lutheran Church in America. The Lutheran Evangelical Church of Finland and the Danish Missionary Society will support the work of the old Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, while the American Lutheran Church will support the work of the former Tokai Lutheran Church.

It was further decided that a cooperating committee on Lutheran Evangelism be established. This committee will determine the responsibility which each of the supporting bodies will assume. It will be made up of members of the various supporting boards which will periodically come to Japan to meet in consultation with the Japan Evangelism Lutheran Church.

Final action will be taken on these proposals at the Convention of the new Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church to be held in May 1964.

The possibility for Joint projects of Evangelism supported by the various agencies associated with the Japan Evangelism Lutheran Church was discussed at the meeting. If such a project were undertaken, the Japan Evangelism Lutheran Church would move into an area in which it is very weak or where it has no churches at all.

KOREAN YOUTH LEADERS VISIT JAPAN

Four Korean Christian youth leaders arrived in Tokyo on January 27 for a 10 day goodwill visit at the invitation of the National Christian Council of Japan. Such an exchange program between Korea and Japan had been discussed as a possibility in the past, but now it has been realized with this visit. Four youth leaders are Rev. Hyang Rock Cho, Minister of Cho Dong Presbyterian Church and former Chairman of youth committee of the National Christian Council of Korea; Rev. Hyun Hoi Cha, Youth Secretary of the Methodist Church in Korea; Rev. Dong Soo Kim, Minister of Sung Kwang Presbyterian Church and Chairman of the youth committee of the Presbyterian Church in Korea; and Rev. Soo Min Lee, High Y Secretary of the National YMCA in Korea.

Upon their arrival, they attended the 15th National Christian Youth Leaders Consultation sponsored by the Youth Committee of the National Christian Council of Japan from the 28th through the 30th of January at Zushi. They joined with about 40 Japanese leaders in a discussion under the theme "Ecumenical Movement, Our Task--Our Life, in Christ". They also exchanged the latest news of youth programs in Korea and Japan and planned future programs. They also discussed the EACC Youth Conference which will be held in the Philippines at the end of this year.

They commented that they were delighted to be received so warmly by the Japanese churches in Japan and to have the opportunity to discuss problems between Korea and Japan. After they attended the consultation, they felt that the problems which are faced by the youth in Korea and Japan are the same, in the sense that the society where they are living is changing so drastically and rapidly. Understanding and cooperation between the Christian youth in these two countries should have precedence over the political and economic interests.

They attended a welcome party of the National Christian Council of Japan on February 1, where Rev. H.R. Cho described the youth in Korea in general as follows: "Generally speaking the Korean youth have lost hope, they are to be drafted to serve in the military forces for three years. The reaction of the youth to this situation is the same as the youth in Japan have shown in the past. However, in the Korean army there are 1,000 chaplains in all; which means that there is a chaplain for each regiment. Soldiers are therefore to receive Christian guidance during their service and there are many who attend churches after being discharged.

They participated in worship services at various churches in Tokyo.

The National Christian Council of Japan will send the Japanese representatives to Korea in return around May or June of this year.

CORRECTION:

In the article "Kozensha, NCC member" which appeared in the February 1 issue, it is stated that Kozensha "was first called Ihaien and was established.." and that "in 1905 it changed its name from Ihaien to Kozensha."

Mr. Isaku Fujiwara of Kozensha told us that Kozensha has never changed the name and that Ihaien was founded and supported by Kozensha.